

LIBRARIES

Highlights

- ♦ There is an existing shortfall of approximately 29,000 square feet of library space.
- ♦ By the year 2022, this shortfall will increase to approximately 99,000 square feet.
- ♦ To serve existing developed areas and new population growth by the year 2022, four new libraries will be needed, and three existing libraries should be expanded.

Introduction

The library system brings people and information together by providing educational, cultural and recreational resources and opportunities for the purposes of self-enrichment and life-long learning. The county's highly educated and growing population continues to increase demands for quality library facilities and services.

Existing Facilities

There are currently nine county libraries, providing 133,800 square feet of library space. Libraries range in size from 4,100 square feet (Enon), to 29,700 (Central). The average branch size is approximately 15,000 square feet.

1995 Public Facilities Plan (Background/Analysis)

1995 Public Facilities Plan library recommendations were based on a service goal of providing .6 square feet of library space per capita. Recommendations for projects prior to 2000 included expansions of the Central, Chester, La Prade, and Midlothian Libraries. The Central Library has not yet been expanded. Chester and La Prade were replaced with much larger facilities on new sites near the old facilities. The Midlothian Library was expanded at its existing site. In sum, 29,500 square feet of building space has been added to the system since 1995. While this additional space has improved library services in communities where the additions occurred, the overall library system still has not achieved its .6 square feet per capita goal. Since 1995, the library system has neither gained nor lost ground in terms of providing library space per capita.

The 1995 Plan identified that there was .5 square feet of space per capita in 1995, and recommended construction of 90,000 additional square feet of library space between 1995 and 2015. The 1995 Plan recommended expansions to existing facilities and construction of three new branches to help meet the .6 square foot per capita service goal. These recommendations were divided into projects that should be completed prior to 2000 and projects that should be completed prior to 2015. The following table depicts completed projects that have increased library space since 1995.

Library Improvements, 1995 to Present

Branch	Size in 1995 (sq. ft.)	Year of New Construction	New Size (sq. ft.)
Chester	4,500	2001	15,500
La Prade	8,000	2001	20,000
Midlothian	8,500	1995	15,000
Total	21,000		50,500

The 1995 Plan applied a portion of the total library space needed throughout the county to the Central Library, since the Central Library provides unique services to all county residents that are not available at branch locations. The Central Library still plays an important role in maintaining these unique resources. The 1995 Plan recommended completion of 6,000 square feet space left unfinished from a previous expansion in 1992. The role of the Central Library is currently being redefined in light of improved technology to deliver information to all branches, and the growing importance of branches as community meeting places. The Library will be developing recommendations for Central Library improvements based on future service plans for the entire library system. For the purpose of this Plan, the countywide need for additional space has been distributed between existing and proposed branch facilities, without any special consideration given to the Central Library.

1995 Plan recommendations were reevaluated and revised during the process of preparing this Plan. Several expansions recommended in 1995 for the period between 2000 and 2015 are currently being pursued by the Library through the Capital Improvement Program. Review of current data found that these new facilities are still needed within or near the same geographic areas as originally proposed. The proposed Lucks Lane branch (now called "Reams/Gordon") and Beach/Qualla branch (now called "Beach Road") will be needed between 2002 and 2007. The proposed Genito/Powwhite branch will be needed by the year 2022 (whereas the 1995 Plan projected this need by the year 2015).

Level of Service

For the purposes of this analysis, the Library has identified two level of service indicators: library floor space (providing .6 square feet of library space per capita), and patron drive time (providing libraries within approximately ten minute driving distance to patrons). The .6 square feet per capita and customer drive time standards help identify underserved populations. These two service indicators also allow comparison of current service levels with the 1995 Plan, since these indicators were also used in the 1995 Plan.

Level of Service Indicators (Background/Analysis)

Library Floor Space: .6 square feet of library space per capita is the primary service level indicator. This standard helps estimate library space needs countywide and in smaller geographic areas. The current level of service remains at the .5 square feet per capita level found in the 1995 Plan. The library system as a whole is about 29,000 square feet below the .6 square feet per capita standard. Without additional construction, this deficit is projected to reach about 99,000 square feet by 2022.

Patron Drive Time: The system-wide goal is to maximize the number of county residents within ten-minute driving distance of library branches. This standard considers the geographic coverage (service area) of library branches. Review of library patron addresses confirms that approximately 90 percent of patrons using a library branch live within ten-minute driving distance of that branch. Patron address data confirms that most county library facilities have been successfully located. In fact, many residents have the choice to conveniently use several branches. About 93 percent of county residents live within ten-minute driving distance of one or more existing branches.

Level of Service Standards Review (Background/Analysis)

The 1995 Plan also reviewed library circulation and the number of visitors at each branch. This information did not play a significant role in the current recommendations. However, these factors may become more significant in future planning models. Many public library systems around the nation are moving away from facility planning models based solely on a square foot per capita standard, and toward models based on the types of services provided to the community (*i.e. meeting rooms, study rooms, access to technology, etc.*) and the number of visitors to the library. The .6 square foot per capita goal was based on a standard published in 1988 by the Virginia State Library and Archives. The current model promoted by the State Library (Standards and Guidelines for Virginia Public Libraries: 2000) advocates developing space needs requirements incrementally. In this approach, space needs would be determined by the cumulative space required for the different types of services provided at each facility.

The Library is currently reviewing the .6 square foot per capita standard, the State Library's latest recommendations, and planning models from other library systems, and may develop additional level of service indicators to use along with the per capita indicator. Once these new standards are developed, they should be incorporated in the next Plan revision.

Findings

The following findings are based on analysis of existing library service areas, drive times, and providing .6 square feet of library space per capita. (*Projected library space needs are rounded to the nearest hundred*).

- Expansion and new construction of library facilities since 1995 has allowed the Library to maintain the 1995 level of .5 square feet of library space per capita. However this is still below the standard of .6 square feet of library space per capita. Without future expansions and/or new construction, the library system will continue to fall behind.
- There is currently demand for an additional 28,800 square feet of library space countywide. If facilities are not expanded or added, this demand is projected to grow to 99,300 square feet by 2022.
- 17,700 square feet of the current unmet demand is located north of Hull Street Road. This unmet demand is expected to grow to 42,300 square feet by 2022.
- 11,100 square feet of the current unmet demand is located south of Hull Street Road. This unmet demand is expected to grow to 57,000 square feet by 2022.
- There is currently substantial unmet demand within the Bon Air, Clover Hill, Meadowdale, and Midlothian service areas.
- Several existing branches may not be feasibly expanded, due to site, building, and neighborhood constraints. These branches include Bon Air, Clover Hill, and Midlothian. The library system has adopted a strategy of providing additional libraries to relieve excess demand in communities where existing facilities cannot be feasibly expanded.

Library Facility Needs: 2002-2022 (Background/Analysis)

	Existing	5-Year	10-Year	15-Year	20-Year
	2002	2007	2012	2017	2022
Population	271,000	302,800	331,800	359,500	388,460
Library Space Need	162,600	181,680	199,080	215,700	233,076
Existing Library Space	133,800	133,800	133,800	133,800	133,800
Space Deficit	28,800	47,880	65,280	81,900	99,276
NORTH OF HULL STREET					
Population	108,817	121,182	132,067	141,411	149,763
Library Space Need	65,290	72,709	79,240	84,847	89,858
Existing Library Space	47,550	47,550	47,550	47,550	47,550
Space Deficit	17,740	25,159	31,690	37,297	42,308
Proposed Facilities					
Reams/Gordon (new)		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Robious/Huguenot (new)			12,000	12,000	12,000
Powhite/Genito (new)					10,000
Space Deficit After Construction		5,159	(310)	5,297	308
SOUTH OF HULL STREET					
Population	162,183	181,618	199,733	218,089	238,697
Library Space Need	97,310	108,971	119,840	130,853	143,218
Existing Library Space	86,250	86,250	86,250	86,250	86,250
Space Deficit	11,060	22,721	33,590	44,603	56,968
Proposed Facilities					
Winterpock/Beach (new)		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Meadowdale (expanded) ¹		8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600
Enon (expanded) ²			10,900	10,900	10,900
Ettrick/Matoaca (expand/replace) ³				7,000	7,000
Chester (expanded) ⁴					4,500
Space Deficit After Construction		(5,879)	(5,910)	(1,897)	5,968
Total Planned Construction		48,600	22,900	7,000	14,500
Countywide Space Deficit After Construction		(720)	(6,220)	(3,400)	6,276

All figures in square feet, except for population

- 1 Total area after construction: 20,000 square feet
- 2 Total area after construction: 15,000 square feet
- 3 Total area after construction: 15,000 square feet
- 4 Total area after construction: 20,000 square feet

Locational Criteria

The goal of the library system is to provide county residents convenient access to high quality library services, subject to certain criteria:

- Library construction should be planned to respond to both current unmet demand and to meet projected future demand.

- Library locations should be central to service areas, providing drive times of ten minutes or less to most parts of a service area. Drive times may be longer for rural areas.
- Libraries should be located with convenient, direct access to a major arterial road. Preferred locations will have access to both north/south and east/west running major arterial roads.
- New library sites should allow for future facility expansion.
- Library sites should be incorporated into village and mixed use centers, and integrated with community retail and/or other public facilities where possible. Reduced site area and shared parking facilities may be appropriate where feasible.
- Due to site, building, and neighborhood limitations at some locations, it may be more feasible to construct additional branches to meet Library service standards rather than to expand existing facilities.

Recommendations (Map 2)

The following facility recommendations will further Comprehensive Plan goals of promoting orderly development by providing new facilities to serve planned growth areas. These recommendations also promote Comprehensive Plan goals of sustaining neighborhoods by encouraging library branch expansion and new branch development in established, developed parts of the county. Recommended library sizes are approximate.

2002-2007

- Reams/Gordon:** Construct a new 20,000 square foot branch in vicinity of Courthouse Road, Lucks Lane, and Reams Road.
- Beach Road:** Construct a new 20,000 square foot branch in the vicinity of Beach and Winterpock Roads.
- Meadowdale:** Expand existing branch by 8,600 square feet (*which will increase the facility to 20,000 square feet*).
- Level of Service Standards:** The Library should review and revise level of service standards, as necessary, to address changing library facility usage, customer, and community needs.

2007 - 2012

- Robious/Huguenot:** Construct a new 12,000 square foot branch in the vicinity of Huguenot and Robious Roads.
- Enon:** Expand existing branch by 10,900 square feet (*which will increase the facility to 15,000 square feet*).

2012 - 2017

- Ettrick/Matoaca:** Expand or replace the existing 8,000 square foot branch, to provide for a 15,000 square foot branch. This project should be based on a detailed site study and locational analysis to examine branch utilization and the location of existing and future customers. If the branch is replaced, the new branch should be located to conveniently serve the existing Ettrick/Matoaca service area.

2017 - 2022

- h. Powwhite/Genito:** Construct a new 10,000 square foot branch in the vicinity of Genito Road and the future Powwhite Parkway extension.
- i. Chester:** Expand existing branch by 4,500 square feet (*which will increase the facility to 20,000 square feet*).

Post 2022

- j. Regional Mixed Use Center:** Construct a new branch 10,000 to 15,000 square foot branch in the vicinity of the regional mixed-use center identified on the Southern and Western Area Land Use Plan.

Benefits of Library Recommendations (Background/Analysis)

Reams/Gordon: This new branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity as well as relieve excess demand in the Bon Air and Midlothian service areas.

Beach Road: This new branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity as well as relieve excess demand in the Clover Hill service area.

Meadowdale: This expanded branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity.

Robious/Huguenot: This new branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity as well as relieve excess demand in the Bon Air and Midlothian service areas.

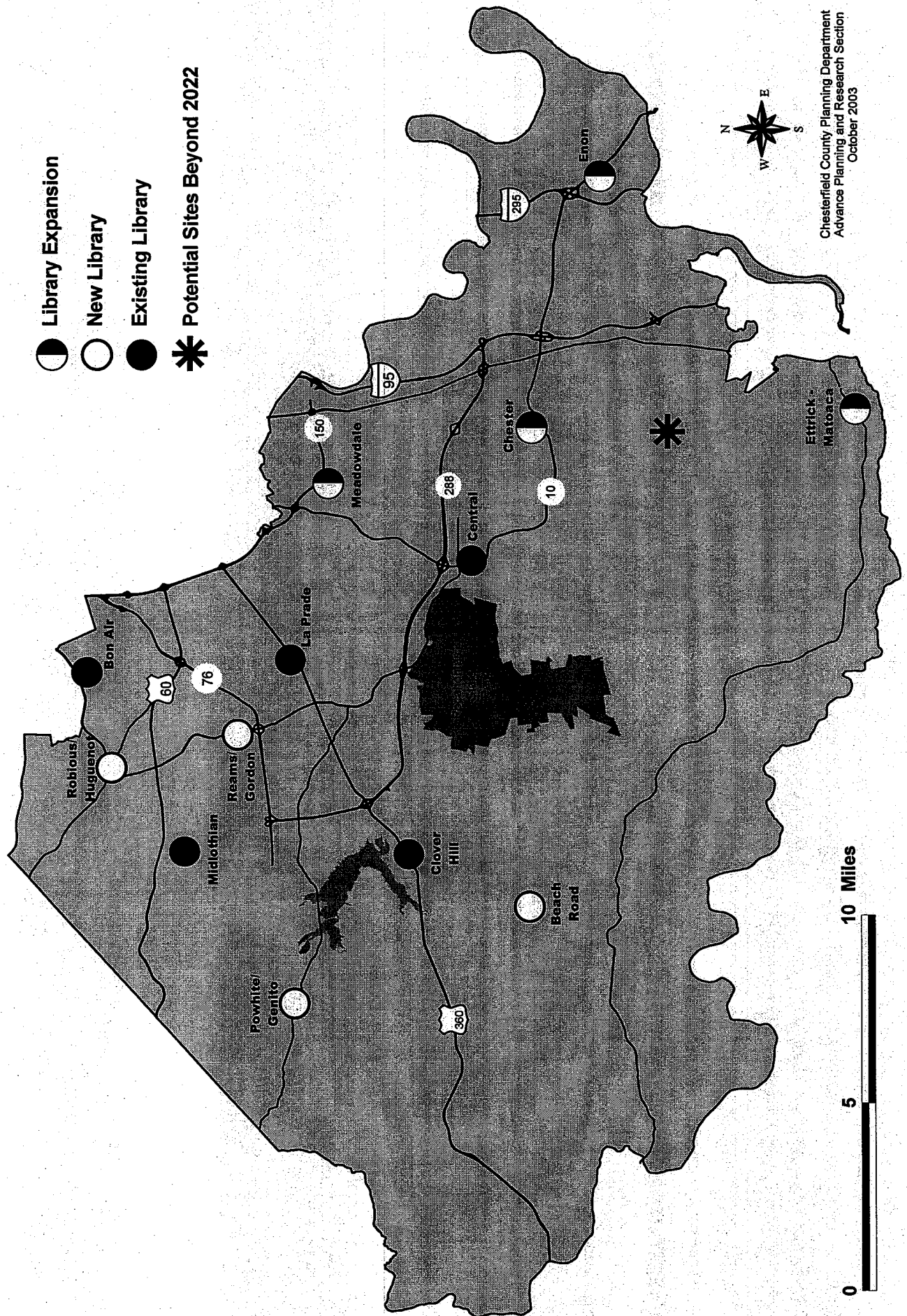
Enon: This expanded branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity.

Ettrick/Matoaca: This expanded or new branch would meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity.

Powwhite/Genito: This new branch will meet existing and projected service demands in the vicinity as well as relieve excess demand in the Clover Hill and Midlothian service areas.

Chester: The expanded branch will meet existing and projected vicinity service demands.

Public Facilities Plan: Library Recommendations (Map 2)



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